

MINISTER FINIAN McGRATH SAYS THANK YOU



Minister Finian McGrath (Ind) has warmly thanked the people for their support over four Dáil elections and one city Council election. He said it was a great honour and privilege to serve. He paid particular tribute to Councillor Damian O'Farrell, his election staff and supporters. He commended them for their dedication and work. It was way above the call of duty.

Minister McGrath said his political record shows that he has been radical, pragmatic, open and always willing to take responsibility to serve his constituents. He negotiated Programme Government Agreements with four different Taoisigh during his twenty one years in public office.

In 2016, with the support of his election team and his Independent Alliance colleagues he made the decision to become a member of Government and more significantly to sit at Cabinet as Minister for Disabilities.

This position at the 'top political table' has enabled him to achieve the following:

- **A Disability Budget of over €2.0billion in 2020, showing a 7% funding increase (€133.7m)**
- **Opening of 12 new respite houses**
- **Ratification of the UN Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities**
- **Extension of Medical Card for 11,000 children in receipt of the Domiciliary Care Allowance**
- **Restoration of the Carer's Grant to 101,000 families**
- **Introduction of Personal Budget demonstration projects with 180 adults thus far**
- **De-congregation- 528 people moved to smaller community homes with supports**
- **Filling of 100 additional Assessment of Need therapy posts**
- **€60.0 million for Capital Projects at Beaumont Hospital (€10.5m CFI Unit // €50.0m new A&E)**
- **€14.0 million Housing Adaption Grants**
- **€16.0 million 'Ability Programme' funding for young adults in 27 new projects.**

There is still so much more to do to support people with disabilities and their families. His 2016 insistence that a Minister for Disabilities would be appointed to Cabinet was crucial and raised the status of the portfolio. He now challenges all political leaders to retain a Cabinet position for the Disabilities Ministry in any future government.

He would also like to thank all the elected representatives and government members he has worked with over the years and he wishes them well. He has also worked with many superb and hardworking public servants and he would like to extend his gratitude to them for their work and support.

He said he has been very fortunate to have the best election team, supporters and neighbours and he wishes to express his sincere gratitude to each one of them.

The Minister also remembers his late wife Anne at this time for her unwavering support often against her better judgement. He thanks his two daughters Caoimhe and Cliodhna and his son-in law Niall and grandchildren for all their support and the love they bring into his life. He would also like to thank his brothers and sisters, their families and Anne's family for their support.

Finally the Minister said, above all, it was a privilege to serve his constituents in Dublin Bay North and he would like to humbly send a heartfelt thank you to every person who voted for him at any time during his political career.

Thank you. " I did my best" said Finian.